such as, creating basic research-oriented infrastructure in establishing research hubs/labs at IITs at Delhi, Kanpur, Madras, Mumbai and Kharagpur, conducting field trials and tests, and connectivity charges. It also includes payment to MIT Media Lab, USA to support and collaborate with Media Lab Asia under the Research Collaboration Agreement between the two.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Telephone exchanges in villages

†5278. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-items which appeared in the 'Rashtriya Sahara', dated the 2nd April, 2002 under the caption 'Gaavon Kay liyay sthapit teen hazaar exchange bijli kay intazaar main';

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to start these exchanges and by when these would start functioning?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) to (c) the information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Post Offices with Internet/E-mail/Computer facilities

5279. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of post offices in the country both rural and urban, where Internet, e-mail and computer facilities are made available for the past five years;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.